

# Rural District of Winslow.

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

1913.

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# To the Winslow Rural Sanitary Authority.

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GENTLEMEN,

This is my Thirty-second Annual Report. There have been many changes and alterations of the L.G.B. Acts, during that time—many new laws affecting Sanitary matters and numerous statistical reports to be furnished by the Medical Officer of Health. The County Medical Officer requests us to enumerate the various Voluntary Acts adopted by us, most of them, of course, were compulsory. They are :—(1) New Streets, Streets and Buildings, (2) Removal of Refuse, Cleansing of Privies, &c., (3) Nuisances, (4) Slaughter Houses, (5) Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, (6) Cleansing of Footways and Pavements, (7) Infectious Diseases.

In looking through some of the old reports, one is struck with the grave decline in the birth-rate lately. This year the number was only 98. Even in 1905 it was 156. In 1902 it was 208, and I see that I wrote in Report of 1902 that, for the last ten years it had averaged 200 annually, and now we have less than 100. I commented on the fact that our birth-rate so far exceeded our death-rate, and yet our population was rather on the decline, and that the rural inhabitants flocked to the towns, now we certainly have no surplus population to spare, as the births and deaths are nearly equal. As the inhabitants of large towns mostly die out in three generations, and hitherto have been replaced by influx from the country ; if the present condition of domestic thought and action continues, a very serious problem is in front of us. Of course, the decline in population is not sufficient to affect my argument.

In Table I. and Table IV., you will see that the mortality was 82, including infants 15, the latter too large, we have had as few as 5. Moreover, no epidemic carried off these infants, most of them were from Marasmus or Premature Birth.

There were no deaths from Zymotic diseases such as Typhoid, Scarlet Fever, or Diphtheria. This is very satisfactory. There were eight from Tuberculosis, four from Cancer, eleven from Heart Disease, six Bronchitis, and none from Pneumonia, Diarrhœa, or Appendicitis. I notice that some of the ages were extreme such as 97.

There were 29 notifications of Zymotic disease and 12 from Tuberculosis.

There was no Typhoid, and one only—a slight one—of Diphtheria, imported into the district, which did not affect others.

Scarlet Fever affected one village, and there were 28 ill before the epidemic subsided. The first case was reported by the doctor in attendance, and I found others in the village desquamating. London children had been brought down and there is no doubt the disease came from them, as there was no fever anywhere in the neighbourhood. There should be more care taken by those in authority who send away children into the country. The examination of them, if any, must be very perfunctory.

There is a hue and cry in the papers and magazines, and also by public speakers calling on Rural Authorities to destroy the so-called miserable cottages in the country, then why send children from the towns into them, making matters worse, in some cases, by overcrowding.

This epidemic began the latter end of September and ended in December. The cases were of a mild nature, and perhaps that was the reason why people were not so careful as they might have been. Cautions and threatenings were not always effectual, and though the Inspector and I made several visits a week we never caught any delinquents. It would want two Inspectors to parade the streets all day to ensure that the children did not meet each other. One family a mile-and-a-half away from the village, had nine children down, the mother who was enceinte, had to wait on them and she contracted the disease, happily with no fatal consequences.

The Inspector will furnish a Report on Inspection of Houses. He has done a number, but it takes time. When one considers that the name of the landlord, tenants, occupiers, ages, in every case with cubic space estimated, drains, sinks and other matters to be investigated, one can understand that the quality of the work done, not the quantity, ought to be considered. We have a qualified Inspector now, who gives all his time to Sanitary matters.

Amongst other things he is supposed to visit 184 milking sheds stowed away in the fields perhaps, twice a year. Ours is a large agricultural district with rich pastures, in most cases, and there are large herds of cattle.

The bakehouses and butchers' shops have been inspected several times.

The cottages are in many cases old, and as I have said every year, there are not many new ones built. One year I see in my Report, 57 cottages were condemned. These houses have been mostly pulled down since then.

The Whaddon public well has been exercising the minds of the Sanitary Authority for some time, owing to fresh water shrimps frequenting the water. The Inspector has met you on the spot more than once, and steps have been taken to remove the nuisance.

The Inspector will give a list and explanation of the work done with regard to House Inspection and Sanitary improvements generally.



Two hardy Annuals, like King Charles' Head, cannot be kept out of my annual reports. One is the question of a Public Water Supply for Winslow, and the other the Stewkley Effluent, which unfortunately after a hundred miles of meandering by hedge sides reaches the Thames. The County Analyst has however examined the effluent so often condemned by the Thames authorities and he pronounces it very fair.

There has been another meeting of the Winslow Ratepayers to consider the desirability of providing a large tank of water to be used in case of fire, and incidentally the question of a Public supply was again raised. Evidently it would be beneficial—(1) as providing perfectly pure water; (2) for flushing purposes; (3) for trade use; and (4) in case of fire. Many ratepayers however, dread it, because they would have no benefit from it, and others object that the rates would be so high that cottage and other rents must be raised and property somewhat depreciated by an additional five shilling rate.

Yours truly,

T. F. VAISEY,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

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## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

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### Housing Act.

During the past year the work of Inspection under the Act, previous and since my permanent appointment in March last, has had more special attention than hitherto: 307 Houses have been inspected.

In the District eleven Dilapidated Cottages have been closed and eight demolished, and seven Cottages built in place thereof, one dilapidated House made habitable, nine others have been built. Two Dilapidated Cottages have been closed and arrangements made by the Owner to have same demolished.

In cases, which are chiefly in the Villages where defects have been found, the Owners or Agents have been written to, asking them to have the defects remedied, some of these received immediate attention and the various works put in hand, others have given undertakings to do so: failures in such cases will be reported to the Sanitary Authority with a request for a Statutory Notice to be served for the remedying of the defects.

Only in two cases where the Owners would not give an undertaking to remedy the defects, Formal Notices were served, and the defects were remedied immediately.

In many cases Tenants have been in occupation for many years, which renders few Houses which can be dealt with under Section 15.

In Winslow, many Houses are of Modern construction; most of the others have from time to time been put into substantial repair, with up-to-date Drainage, and in most cases connected with the new Sewer.

### Drainage and Sewage Disposal.

Winslow.—The Sewage Disposal Works are carried out by means of filtration by bacterial Beds and irrigation over land.

Mursley—is on similar lines.

The greater portion of the Villages of Whaddon and Great Horwood are sewered, and have bacteria Beds.

Stewkley.—The greater portion of this Village also is sewered, and has settling Tanks and Beds constructed for downward filtration.

Complaints have been made by the Thames Conservancy: since then certain further Works have been carried out and a sample analysed by Mr. W. W. Fisher: his report states that the effluent in all essentials is very satisfactory in character.

In the District, Drainage to 19 existing Houses has been repaired and altered, and in most cases reconstructed; 7 defective Water Closets renewed; 14 connections to Sewers have been made. Throughout the District generally a certain amount of work has been carried out in trapping Drains and Sewers and ventilating same. Arrangements have been made with various Owners to convert privy middens into pail system.

## **Water Supplies.**

Throughout the District the Water is obtained principally from Wells 10 to 40ft. deep, natural Springs in good clean and bright Sand or Gravel, and in most cases under an impervious strata of Clay ; the whole supplies have been well maintained during the year.

The Water generally is bright and of a temporary hardness and has no action on lead.

North Marston and Drayton Parslow water contains traces of iron.

Two Wells at Whaddon have been cleansed, and a Cesspool dispensed with near the same, during the year.

Two Wells have been cleansed at Nash ; one has been provided with a new covering and concrete round same, with granolithic cement concrete to prevent surface pollution.

One new Well has been sunk, the upper portion of Well above water line has been constructed with 9in. brickwork in cement and puddled with clay and carried well above ground line, and finished at top as in the former case with granolithic cement ; a pump has also been erected.

The Village of North Marston is supplied from a Well on the Hill, known as Schorne Well ; supply constant. The water is syphoned from well to stand pipes in Village. There is one other well (shallow) in the upper part of the Village, which is well protected from surface pollution.

Little Horwood.—The source of supply is upland surface water and reservoir on adjoining Hill, known as Shucklow, daily yield about 1,500 gallons ; the reservoir has been cleansed, the water gravitating throughout the Village with stand pipes, and rises to the top of the highest House. Four new Houses have had the service laid on.

## **Inspection of Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.**

Periodical Inspections previous, and since my permanent appointment in March last, have been made during the year ; some Cowsheds which had not been properly limewashed or cleansed hitherto, have now been done.

In some cases, I have advised the cowkeepers to use the small Limewash Spraying Machines which give better results than the brush, especially to cowsheds with the stud and boarded walls as it fills up the crevices ; the process being much quicker and better, leads to the work being done oftener than usual. In some cases these machines have been purchased, in others, hired.

Generally speaking, the limewashing and cleansing from time to time have improved.

In the district, three new Cowsheds have been built. Two have been properly lighted and ventilated. Two reconstructed, one paved with concrete, and one yard repaired.

In one other case, arrangements have been made with the owner for new drainage to farmyard and cowsheds.

There are several old cowsheds which are really past repair ; in these cases, undoubtedly, new ones will be built in place thereof. To these, and in most cases throughout the district, Part II. of the Regulations does not apply as to air space, as the cows are not permanently confined to the sheds.

The difficulty in dealing with the small cowkeepers, is that the expenditure falls on the cowkeepers, who cannot afford the capital outlay, and not on the owners.

In many cases this difficulty is being removed by the fact that the Bucks County Council Small Holdings' Committee have purchased farms and converted buildings into cowsheds, and erected new small cowsheds suitable for such small cowkeepers.

I hope by special effort during the coming year, to get further satisfactory results.

## **Factories and Workshops.**

Made several visits ; 3 on Register and one removed during the year ; 4 unregistered have now been put on the register. One with defective drainage and dilapidated state of premises now remedied.

Two complaints received from the Home Office, i.e. (1) The Kiln, Stewkley, no sanitary conveniences provided ; this work is now in hand. (2) Bakehouse, Limewashing apparently overdue ; remedied immediately.

## **Bakehouses.**

Made 36 visits ; 18 on Register ; 1 Registered during the year and 1 removed ; one with dilapidated and insanitary premises now remedied.

## **Slaughter Houses.**

Have made periodical inspections ; 19 on Register ; one removed during the year.

Summary of work done through the Sanitary Inspector in the Sanitary District of Winslow, during the year ended 31st December, 1913.

<b>Housing, Town Planning &amp;c., Act, 1908.</b>					<b>Water Supply.</b> <i>(see Report).</i>				
Houses Inspected	...	...	...	307	<b>Slaughter Houses.</b> <i>(see Report).</i>				
(s. 17) Houses represented as unfit for habitation				11	<b>Bakehouses.</b> <i>(see Report).</i>				
Houses closed	a	after C.O.	...	5	<b>Dairies, Milk Shops &amp; Cow Sheds.</b> <i>(see Report).</i>				
		b	without C.O.	6	Dairymen and Purveyors of Milk on Register	...	...	...	2
Houses made habitable			...	1	Cowkeepers on Register	...	...	...	112
(s. 18) Houses demolished without D.O.			...	8	<b>Factories and Workshops.</b> <i>(see Report).</i>				
(s. 15) Notices served	a	formal	...	2	<b>Common Lodging Houses.</b>				
		b	informal	84	Not Registered	...	...	...	1
Houses made habitable			...	20	<b>Infectious Diseases.</b>				
<b>Nuisances (Public Health Acts).</b>					Visits Paid	...	...	...	217
Complaints received			...	3	Houses disinfected	...	...	...	17
Nuisances detected without complaint			...	27	School and Offices disinfected	...	...	...	1
Nuisances abated	a	by persons responsible	...	28					
		b	by Council in default	2					
<b>House Nuisances (not included above).</b>									
Overcrowding abated			...	1					
<b>Drains, W.C.s., Privies, &amp;c.</b> <i>(see Report).</i>									

H. CRIPPS,  
*Sanitary Inspector.*